

## LABOR DAY CELEBRATION WAS A BIG EVENT IN BELDING

SRGT. M. J. MYERS TOLD CROWD OF LIFE IN TRENCHES OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM

"Absolutely the best one ever," was the usual comment heard about the celebration which the people of this city and vicinity enjoyed on Monday, September 2, Labor day, when thousands of people from this city and the country for 18 miles surrounding came to the big celebration which had been planned and carried out by the laboring people of the city in honor of the greatest power and the most potent factor in the development of the resources of the world—Labor.

Everything was pulled off just exactly according to scheduled time and there were no disappointing waits between acts, something doing all the time, just as the big bills said there would be and the things that were doing were high class and right up to the minute all the time. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we heard not a single evidence of any on starting to quarrel or fight and with the exception of the customary "rag chewing" at the baseball game and a baseball game would not be a success were it not for some dissatisfaction with the umpire's decisions, the day passed off as one of the biggest and most pleasant gatherings ever had in Belding.

The parade started promptly on time from the west end of Main street and as it passed along Main street, going east it was greeted with applause. It was headed by Stanton's famous marine band and some band it was, too. We failed to count the number of pieces in the band, but a creditable thing is that the band had not forgotten those of their members who had offered their all for their country and they bore proudly with them, a service flag which contained 12 stars.

Following the Stanton band came 12 members of the Michigan Mounted Constabulary, who had reached the city the evening before and who had been invited by the labor day committee to take part in the parade. The constabulary also gave a rather dignified patriotic military touch to the parade and their appearance greatly pleased the throng who lined both sides of the street to view the parade.

Next came the good ladies who sacrifice time and pleasure to meet at regular intervals of time to work for some one else, without pay, and in one of the most laudable and patriotic movements of the world—the grand ladies of the Belding Red Cross chapter. They came along a half a hundred or more strong and the forward ladies carried a large American flag and using this as a tray, they carried money that was raised for the Red Cross and they stepped out into the street to contribute. Following the Red Cross ladies came the best decorated automobile in the parade, driven by Mrs. Lee Cusser. The auto was decorated in white bearing large Red Crosses on front, rear and sides. Mrs. Cusser was dressed in Red Cross costume and in the auto with her she had the biggest bunch of cute little diminutive Red Cross ladies one ever beheld.

Following this auto came the A. J. Moore truck carrying Wm. Howe and his band dispensing martial music and after them came the big Buick Bros. truck, driven by O. Taft and carrying a Red Cross hospital scene with the actors, small children of the north side taking the parts of patients, surgeons, nurses and Uncle Sam watching operations. Following them came an auto truck owned by McLean Bros. which carried a cage containing the kaiser under guard of members of the Custer for the day to take part in the celebration.

Next came a big float in the shape of an army tank, driven by John Andrews of the Citizens Light Co., and which moved along the street at about the rate which a tank ordinarily travels in action. Following this came a Ford service display car, carried a Ford car in pieces and parts and after them came the Ford repair department, with a demonstration of how the Ford service helps when you let them know you are in need of either parts or help. Next came a truck owned by W. Coney, decorated up for a prize winner.

Labor as it goes to make up the Dort force over in Factory B turned out nearly 100 per cent strong and carried away the large flag which the committee offered as a prize for the largest body of people from any one factory or mill. The Dort boys are a good bunch and they showed up in fine style in their place in the parade Monday and deserve a lot of credit for the interest which they took in getting out as near 100 per cent strong as they did. The forward men in the line of marchers carried a huge banner which bore the wording "Dort Motor Car Co." and in addition to this each man carried a regulation size Dort pennant. The men presented a fine sight as they passed and elicited comment and praise from many people who saw them as they passed.

Following the Dort boys came decorated autos driven by M. J. Warner and Carroll Ring. The came the boys of Factory A of the Belding-Hall Co. and while they were fewer in number than were the men of the Dort people, they made up for it in patriotism by carrying a large sign which said right out in plain English, "To Hell With the Kaiser."

Orlie Hammond, as a horrible, came next and as he walked along he was doing the juggling act to perfection and displayed considerable skill in this art. Behind Mr. Hammond came his own famous Belding band boys giving out music like they never did before and Belding people were proud of the sight the band boys made in the Labor day parade and also in the (Continued on Page Five)

**Heads Street Car Men**  
Clyde B. Pixley, a former local man, was elected president of the Street Railway Men's association at their annual meeting at Grand Rapids, Friday. Mr. Pixley was formerly employed in the local factories and left here about ten years ago to take up street car work in Grand Rapids and as reports show, he is making good.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Smith were called to Grand Rapids, Tuesday by the death of a brother. Mrs. Charles A. Johnson will give her report as a delegate to the Sunday school convention which she attended in Cadillac last week, at the Thursday night meeting of the Congregational church.

## NEW REGISTRATION FOR 18 TO 45 MEN SEPTEMBER 12

ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN 13 MILLIONS WILL BE REGISTERED FOR DRAFT DUTY.

The new national man power bill has become a law and of course, like all laws, having to do with the national relief in any way, will take immediate effect. It passed both houses of congress with practically unanimous votes and was signed by President Wilson when it was presented to him for his signature.

It is expected that the new registration will place the names of more than 13,000,000 people upon a classified list for the purpose of drawing therefrom for the purpose of increasing and maintaining the strength of the United States army and navy to a size sufficient and adequate to meet and cope with any matter or emergency that may present itself before this nation, and particularly, at the present time to show the ruling war lords of Germany that the small and insignificant army which Uncle Sam had in 1917 was by no means a sample of what he can have in 1918 and 1919 with a little effort.

The registration of the men of this nation between the ages of 18 and 45 or 46 rather, because every man who has not reached his 46th birthday will have to register for military duty, away from the boy affair which it has heretofore seemed to be and many a man in this city who would look rather queer in a khaki uniform will have to walk up to his registration place on Thursday, September 12 and give his age and other necessary information in order that he may be properly classified for military duty. In fact, after a careful survey of the men who are running or are in charge of the business places in this city, we find that there are a subject to the but who will become subject to the draft by the new law and the next 12 months' time may work wonderful changes in the management and clerical forces in the stores and shops of this city. If this war keeps up much longer many a man who comes down town each morning in a slick grey business suit will be over in France in a year from now, picking cotton or in a khaki uniform while with one eye cocked over toward the German trenches, he will watch for a chance to pot a Hun.

How strange it would look to see Glen Wortley, Lou Leonard, Chub Waldo, Earl Wilson, Smith Stanton, Lee Cusser, George Wagner, Spud Crawford, Fred Hubbell, C. A. A. Crawford, Fred Warner and a lot of other Belding "boys" go over the top in a bayonet charge on some Fritz trench. Aye, aye, we say it would look strange, but it would look like business for those sauerkrautdom, pernickie fellows and we'll bet our accumulated debts of the past two years that some one would make a lasty retreat and it would not be our boys either.

Remember, boys that you will not have to go to Ionia to register, but that on Thursday, September 12, between the hours of 7 in the morning and 9 o'clock at night, your regular voting place in the ward, precinct or township in which you live will be open to register you. The supervisor of the ward or township is chairman of the registration board and will have charge of the work.

Let Belding's men who are between the ages of 18-45 be 100 per cent efficient in registering on the date which congress has set for this all important matter and answer the tag "I have registered" early, from the time that you register, throughout the day.

**Boys Write They Are Safe.**  
Mrs. E. J. Knapp and Mrs. George W. Kingsbury are happy over the receipt of letters from their sons, Clayton Knapp and Elmer Kingsbury, written by the boys after they reached Liverpool, England, which said that they were well and happy and that the home folks should cease worrying for they were soon going to bag the kaiser and the whole cussed Potsdam family.

**Dancers Attention!**  
Hale's Concert and dance orchestra will give a big Fair time dancing party at the K. of P. hall in Greenville, on Friday night, this week, September 6th. Everybody invited. One of the best dance floors in the state.

**Killed In France**  
J. C. Zerba is in receipt of a letter to the effect that his grandson, Leonard J. Zerba, was recently seriously wounded in France, while in action with the American forces and that he died on August 9th, from the wounds which he received. A telegram on the 16th confirmed this news and a communication since received from Washington stated that the body would be shipped home after the war.

**Treasurer's Notice**  
Tuesday, September 10 will be the last day for the payment of taxes at the one per cent rate. An additional per centage will be charged after that date.  
Wm. E. Fisher, City Treas.

## The Paper Situation As It Confronts The Publisher

Since the message to our subscribers appeared in this space last week, a great many of our readers have been in and attended to the matter of paying their subscriptions in advance. Two quit because a dollar and a half a year was too much and several of our friends "joshed" us because we sprung an imaginary government ruling on them as our excuse for getting a paid-in-advance list at this time.

For this reason, we, this week, publish the order, exactly as it came to us. It is a war measure and we are going to be as square with our Uncle Sam and our subscribers as we hope our subscribers will be with us.

The order as we got it is as follows:

**"To Publishers of Country Weekly Newspapers:**  
The priorities board of the war industries board has listed paper mills as an essential industry, and has rated them in fourth class for priority for coal, on the distinct understanding that the greatest possible economy in the use of paper be exercised, and that the reduction in the use of paper by the newspapers shall be 15 per cent. Each paper mill will be put on the priority list for coal, conditional on their signing a pledge that they will furnish no paper to any consumer who will not also sign a pledge in duplicate that he will exercise the greatest possible economy in the use of paper, and will observe all rules and regulations of the conservation division of the pulp and paper section of the war industries board. These pledges are now being prepared and will be furnished shortly. One copy will be left on file with the mill and the other will be sent to this office.

The war committee of weekly newspaper publishers feels that the necessary saving of 15 per cent should come out of the industry as a whole.

No publisher of a weekly, semi-weekly or tri-monthly newspaper shall use in its production any excess newsprint, and of a weight on the basis of not heavier than 30 1-2x44-50 pounds (basis and supercalendered, and regardless of weight.

No publisher may continue subscriptions after three months after date of expiration, unless subscriptions are renewed and paid for.

No publisher may give free copies of his paper, except for actual service rendered; except to camp libraries and huts or canteens of organizations.

No publisher shall print extra copies for stimulating advertising or subscriptions, or for any use other than those specified in these regulations, except not to exceed one per cent of his circulation with a minimum of ten copies.

No publisher shall send free copies in exchange for other publications, except to such other publications as are printed within the county or within a radius of 40 miles from his point of publication.

No publisher shall sell his publication at an exceedingly low or nominal subscription price.

No publisher shall offer premiums with his publication unless a price is put upon the premiums for sale separately and the combined price is at least 75 per cent of the sum of the individual prices.

No publisher shall sell his publication to anyone below the published subscription price.

No publisher shall conduct voting or other contests for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions. Subscriptions obtained in this way will not be considered bona fide subscriptions.

No publisher may issue holiday, industrial or other special edition.

Publications of papers of more than eight pages in size will reduce the pages in excess of eight pages 25 per cent. This reduction shall be an average reduction over one month's period.

A sworn statement will be required from each publisher Nov. 1 as to how many of these rules have been put into effect by him, and what results in the matter of reducing paper consumption have been obtained.

## YOU'RE UNPOPULAR IF YOU USE ANY GASOLINE ON SUNDAY

MOTOR PARTIES JEERED SUNDAY AS THEY PASSED ON THE STREETS

Sunday was a practically gasoline-less day as far as Belding was concerned and but a very few machines were out on the streets at any one time and it is safe to say that not more than two per cent of the usual number of machines, which appear on the streets, were out on Sunday. The people of this city were patriots of the first class and the gas wagons held no joy for them from Saturday night until Monday morning, when it was all right to again crank up the flivver and take a spin, although it is a noticeable fact that the ban on gasoline on Sunday will also cut the consumption of that war necessity on week days hereafter.

Some thoughtless people, or perhaps they did not care a whoop for laws and rules which would do with the conserving of the gasoline supply got out their cars and started to run around town. At every place where they were discovered they were hoisted and jeered and told that they were no better than the ordinary lot of people and that they should hunt up their garages and put the wagon away. In several instances people tried to excuse themselves, but the critics would take no excuses and took the fact that the people were using their cars as prima facie evidence that the riders were either unpatriotic or that they thought themselves above the general run of people whom the law or ruling might be intended for.

In one instance, an automobile drove up in front of a local restaurant and its occupants got out and entered the restaurant for something to eat. The proprietor asked them if they owned the auto standing outside and when they answered in the affirmative, they were told that they had better hurry on to the next stop as they would not be wanted there in a manner that expressed the utmost contempt for anyone who is not willing to "help in every last way in conserving when called upon to do so."

Several parties who passed through town flying the white flag, while they might have had a right to use the flag, were given no such credit and were jeered and in an unwelcome manner and they acted as if they were mighty glad to get out of sight and hearing. However, one circumstance was remarkable and that was that whenever a soldier in the khaki uniform of our nation appeared driving a car, he was allowed to go unnoticed and uncensored. The general trend of thought seemed to be that the boy had perfect right to burn up gasoline on Sunday if it would add pleasure to his furlough and not a contemptuous remark was heard in such a case.

We are told that the person who is caught out with an automobile on next Sunday, after church hours, and without some real urgent business making it necessary for a trip, will be called to an accounting in this matter, by parties who are interesting themselves in this gasoline saving business and we are also told that a bright yellow paint may grace the bodies of cars whose owners are not patriotic enough to live up to the desires and aims of the fuel administration in this regard and insist, instead, on burning up gasoline in pleasure riding, while other and more patriotic folks are either walking, using some other kind of method of transportation or remaining at home.

## "OVER THE TOP" RESUMED

With this issue we again resume the serial story, "Over The Top," which was broken off when we consolidated the Banner and News offices. It will be found on Page 6 of this issue.

## TRAINING CAMP FOR OFFICERS AT MOUNT PLEASANT

GOOD CHANCE FOR YOUNG MEN TO FIT THEMSELVES FOR OFFICERS' COMMISSIONS.

Every Ionia county boy who is between 18 and 21 years old and is a high school graduate is eligible to enter the Students' Army Training corps camp which opens at Mt. Pleasant on Sept. 30. Men of over 21 who are high school graduates and who have not yet been inducted into military service are also eligible.

The military work of this camp will be under the supervision of an army officer and five assistants from Ft. Sheridan. Rifles, uniforms, overcoats and other equipment will be furnished free by the war department and the young men will receive board, lodging, tuition and \$30 per month from the government.

Studies will be prescribed by the U. S. war department and supervised by the regular faculty of Central Michigan Normal school.

The purpose is to discover and to train young men with education and other qualifications sufficient to enable them to enter Central Officers' Training camps and camps for non-commissioned officers; 150,000 more officers are required by July 1, 1919.

The \$60,000 gymnasium of this institution will be turned over to military uses and will serve both as armory and barracks for the candidates for higher army service. The great fireproof building, equipped with shower baths, swimming pool, drinking fountain, fan system of ventilation and efficient janitor service, will make this one of the most sanitary camps in the United States. The boys will be carefully looked after by the war department and by the faculty of Central Michigan Normal school. Every line of athletics will be encouraged in this camp.

Boys entering the camp will be required to register in their home counties on Sept. 12 and will then enroll at Central Michigan Normal school on Sept. 28 and be voluntarily inducted into the U. S. army about Oct. 1.

Every Ionia county boy who is eligible should avail himself of this splendid opportunity offered by Uncle Sam and the Central Michigan Normal school in cooperation. This is his chance to get into higher war service. The draft supplies plenty of men for the ranks. Officers and non-commissioned officers are sadly needed, and the opportunity for the young man is far greater.

Since the capacity of this camp is limited, every boy who desires to enter the camp should at an early date make application by letter to President E. C. Warriner, Mt. Pleasant, Mich. This letter should contain a statement of high school graduation, signed by superintendent or high school principal. Applications will be honored in the order of their reception.

Miss Ann Bracken is spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Bracken.

## HOSPITAL BENEFIT SHOWS WERE A BIG SUCCESS

GOOD AUDIENCES GREETED BOTH APPEARANCES OF

The benefit plays given by local talent under the direction of Mrs. Abigail J. Williams, at the opera house on Thursday and Friday nights were a success, both in a dramatic, entertaining and financial way and the audience evidenced their appreciation by frequent applause every now and then. The people taking part in the plays were thoroughly drilled and carried out their parts to perfection and the public who spent money to help both themselves to an evening's entertainment and the hospital in a financial way, were well satisfied and much favorable comment was heard regarding the manner in which some one's favorite actor or actress had carried their part and appeared upon the stage.

The prelude, "In the days of '61," a play of the Civil war days was given in each instance before the play, "The Slacker" was presented and the actors, clothed in their old-time blue uniforms, gave a striking contrast to the soldiers one sees now upon the streets of the cities of this nation.

The Slacker was a play dealing with the modern war times and contained a good moral lesson for some cities, although there are very few, if any young men in this city, whom it would hit, but where there is a young man who should be in the service of his country, the Slacker should be presented for his special benefit and he should be given a reserved seat, so that he will not miss a word of what is said.

The little twins, the Misses Selma and Velma, were there as usual with their fancy dancing and as usual they drew the hearty applause which they always get. These young ladies are always highly pleasing to Belding audiences and never fail to make a hit with the house. Mrs. Abigail Williams also sang a solo at each one of the shows and displayed remarkable talent along this line.

The production of the plays was the result of the training for about a week of the actors under Mrs. Abbie Williams, formerly of this city, but now of New York, who was here for a short visit at the home of her aunt, Mrs. E. B. Lapham and for the short time which the company had to rehearse in, they showed remarkable aptitude and talent. It also gave evidence that Mrs. Williams has lost none of her former ability and efficiency in presenting such productions. She at one time presented the musical comedy, "Pinafore" in the local opera house, to a packed house for two nights.

As a result of the plays the hospital treasury has been enriched, if we may use that word, to more than \$80 and the ladies of the board of managers of the institution wish to extend their hearty thanks to Mrs. Williams for the putting on of the play and also to those who attended and made possible the raising of the money which will help to defray the expenses of running the hospital.

J. A. Crittenden Gets A. B. Degree.  
James A. Crittenden, a former principal in the local high school, received the A. B. degree at the U. of M. this summer. He will soon go to Shattuck Military school, Fairbault, Minn. where he will teach English and Latin. Mr. Crittenden has many friends in this city who will be glad to learn of his progress.

**Support Suffrage.**  
At a recent meeting of the Ladies' Social Circle of the Congregational church at the home of Mrs. J. A. Lester, it was voted unanimously to support the woman suffrage amendment to the constitution.

**Cleaned Out Machine Gun Nest.**  
Dugal Ferguson, son of Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Ferguson of Grand Rapids, formerly of this city, won special mention over in France when he cleaned out a German machine gun nest, single handed and alone. Dugal will be remembered by many local people. He worked himself up to the German machine gunners and engaged them in battle and cleaned them out.

## BELDING NURSE IS ON THE JOB CARING FOR YANKS

MISS JEAN CLARK WRITES TO FOLKS OF HER WORK AS A NURSE IN HOSPITALS

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Clark are in receipt of the following letter from their daughter, Jean, who was, up until the time of her enlistment as a Red Cross nurse, superintendent of the local hospital. Miss Clark is now nursing the Yanks who have been shot up in the recent gallant actions of our armies in their driving the German back through Berlin and into the Black Sea, if they don't throw up their hands before they reach that place.

Her letter is as follows:

My dear Folks at Home—I'm under the spreading chestnut tree—not our own though. I've wondered so often just how it all looked around home as I suppose that you have also been wondering how things are where I am and I do wish I could just write it all. But even though I can't, I'm mighty glad I'm here. You have heard by now of the wonderful things the allies are doing. Well we are getting the results and it is so good to know I can be of some help to the boys who are doing. Well we are getting the results and it is so good to know I can be of some help to the boys who are doing. Well we are getting the results and it is so good to know I can be of some help to the boys who are doing.

July 27—I started this letter quite some time ago, but I've been so busy and so tired I just didn't take time to finish. I felt that I should sleep all that I could to keep myself fit for the work which has somewhat doubled up now.

We are surely doing the most wonderful work and the boys are so cheerful that it seems to me that it all the more pathetic, they are so terribly wounded, some of them.

I don't think I've ever told you much about the place. It is located in the center of a famous old race track in the suburbs of Paris. It was at one time the style center of this side of the world. It is a steeple chase race course and one of the American women living here in France, described it to me as a place where the dressmakers went around with their note books in their hands taking notes of the costumes worn and much money was lost or won at the betting booths. In these same booths the hospital now store their tents and the clothing of the sick soldiers.

The rest is nearly all tents located in the center of the race track—rather, they were in the center at first, but we have grown so rapidly that we have had to set up more tents outside on the course. We now have a capacity of nearly 2,000 and during the past two weeks have been so busy but although we were terribly rushed, we have always been able to give them fairly good care, a bath, bed and food which they all need badly and the operating room was running night and day continually, with three tables going most of the time.

Mr. Engemann has been sending me the paper. As nearly as I can make out he means to chase the war and it seems good to get it and I must write them a note and thank them for it.

(Deleted by Censor.)  
We were flattered last week by being inspected by Gen. Pershing. I had the honor of seeing the man and yesterday I had the pleasure of meeting Congressman Crampin, of Lapere and I had quite a talk with him.

When I told him that I was from Belding he said that he knew Mr. B. F. Hall very well. I must write to Dr. Orr and Mrs. Reed, but I've been so busy I have just let everything go.

If Louise isn't home send this to her will you? It's hard to get time to write and then besides, it's the same thing in every letter.

I've bought me a new camera, a small one and will have lots of pictures to bring home. Write soon.

All the love in the world, from your Jean M. Clark, Am. Red Cross Military Hosp. No. 5. A. P. O. 702 A. E. France

**Congregational Church News**  
Thursday night at 7 o'clock business meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society at the church. At 7:30, prayer meeting with report by Mrs. Charles Johnson of the State Sunday school convention at Cadillac. A business meeting of the church and society will follow this meeting at which all members of the society and church and those interested in the work of the church should be present.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Currie and family returned home from a week's visit to Muskegon Sunday.

## "THE SOLDIERS WRITE SUCH GOOD LETTERS HOME"

SO SAY MANY OF OUR READERS. ANOTHER GOOD LOT OF LETTERS AGAIN THIS WEEK

We received many compliments from our readers regarding the many letters which we published last week and this week we are glad to publish another fine lot from the boys who are in the national service both in camps and cantonments in this country and in the trenches of bloody France.

Letter No. 1 is from Maurice LeVac, son of Mrs. A. Dietz, west of the city and is as follows:  
Camp Eustis, Va., Aug. 30, 1918.  
Editor Home News:

Just a few lines to ask you to be kind enough to interest your many readers to send magazines and other reading matter to the address below. Please insert this in your paper for a boy from your town.

This is a new camp which when completed will cover 60 square miles' acreage; it is located 10 miles from Newport News, Va., 72 miles from Richmond and 3 miles from a town called Lee Hall. In reality it's a village consisting of one hotel, one candy stand, three Ford's of the vintage of 1913 and six pony horses and still they call it a town.

I enlisted on the 1st day of June at the recruiting station on Franklin street in Saginaw. I was sent to Detroit, from there was sent to Columbus, O., and stayed there for one week and from there was shipped to Fort Adams, R. I. I left there on July 12, 1918 for what I thought was God's land according to songs and poems and landed at Camp Eustis, Va., on Mulberry Island July 15, 1918 at night and was greeted with a thunder and lightning-storm and a summer immediately christened it Camp Ulesten. They are very good to us down here. We are allowed to go to a dance once a week if we feel like walking 15 miles to Yorktown.

We are now in the heart of what is known as the "Sunny South." Sunny is right for most of the time it is 95 in the shade. I never see a newspaper except the home news which one of my bunkies receives and it is certainly a sight for sore eyes.

Before I close my letter let me tell you a little about the place. It is a new camp, a number of the southern boys including Monroe, Va., Ocean View Beach located on the Chesapeake bay, Newport News, Va., but not one of these places compare with dear old Belding and I'm just yearning to go "over there" finish it all and return to the place I call home.

A lad from Belding.  
Private Maurice LeVac, Supply Co., 50th Reg. C. A. C., Camp Eustis, Va., No. 3359910.  
P. S.—My home address is the same as mine, his name is Harold Gregory. He has an uncle living in Belding by the name of Fred Jackson.

Letter No. 2 is from Louie Stone to Mrs. A. M. Simmons, of this city. Just imagine the unbounded joy and delight of three Belding boys meeting one another over in France unexpectedly. That is what Louie Stone, Harmon Palmater and Lynn Simmons of this city did one day in France recently. Louie tells about it in the following letter:

France, July 14, 1918.  
Mr. Simmons:  
I will tonight take time to write you a short letter to let you know that today I came face to face with Lynn and Harmon. I was never so surprised in all my life, believe me it was worth a lot to see some one from home. Lynn is looking fine. I was out to their fort and had dinner with them today. He was telling me you have an interest in the Belding paper. Put in a line about our good luck in seeing each other and that France is a beautiful place but Belding, Mich., is good enough for me. I have travelled about 30,000 miles since I've been in France. Tell the people to write to the boys from Belding for that is all the pleasure I get in receiving letters from home. It is very hard for a person to be in a country and can't understand what the people say. Well I will close.

Prvt. Lewis B. Stone, A. S. O. S., A. E. F., Chief Eng.

George Whitney, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Whitney, of 808 Brooklyn Street, at the following letter to home folks here:

Camp Mills, L. I., Aug. 18, 1918.  
Dear Folks at Home:

Well, I am located at Camp Mills, Long Island now, folks. We left Frisco a week ago last Friday at 11 o'clock a. m. and all of our outfit except the baggage car got there Thursday. I was in the baggage car and stayed in the Brooklyn yards all day Thursday getting into camp about 2 o'clock next morning.

The Red Cross sure used us fine on the trip, in every town of considerable size we were served with cake, coffee, ice cream, lemonade, cigarettes and cigars, sweet milk or some other good junk. In Detroit we all went to the Y. M. C. A. and took a bath. It is some trip from coast to coast. We took the S. E. from Frisco to Ogden, Utah, Union Pacific to Chicago and Michigan Central to Dowagiac, Mich., through Battle Creek and up to Detroit into Canada and on to Hoboken, N. J., and from there over to Camp Mills, L. I. I would love to step out here but I won't be here very long, not till after Saturday. Troops are rushing out of here by the thousands and Gen. Pershing said he would have us all in Heaven, Hell or Hoboken, N. J., for Christmas dinner, ha, ha.

(Continued on Page Three.)